In the Claims

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

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1. [Original] A method for identifying duplicate records among multiple systems, comprising the steps of:

loading first records having an index number into a database during a first predetermined time period;

for each record having said index number, searching said database for another record, loaded during a second earlier time period, having the same index number and replacing said another record, if found, with said first record;

comparing each first record for which no matching index number record was found with all other first records for which no matching index number record was found;

comparing each of said first records for which no matching index number record was found with all the other records including the replaced records in said database;

generating reports of the comparing steps, the reports listing records which compared; and

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eliminating from said database said first records deemed to have compared.

2. [Original] The method of claim 1, said records being invoice records.

3. [Original] A method for providing a report that can be used to evaluate two or more invoiced documents for further investigation of possible duplicate invoicing, comprising the steps of:

maintaining a compact database by removing canceled invoice documents and invoice documents older than a predetermined period;

extracting data from said compact database by matching on suppliers invoice indicia, name, date and amount; and

producing said report from said data.

4. [Original] The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:

entering invoice data to said compact database from a plurality of accounts payable systems.

5. [Original] The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

first entering said invoices into said compact database for payment at a later date; and

checking said compact database for duplicate invoices before said later date.

6. [Original] The method of claim 3, further comprising the step responsive to submission of an invoice with a null invoice indicia field of entering date indicia in said null invoice indicia field.

7. [Currently amended] Method for capturing packets of possible duplicate invoices for duplicate invoice analysis, comprising the steps of:

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maintaining a collection of current invoices that have not yet been paid;

maintaining a collection of history invoices that have been paid; [[and]]

generating from said current invoices and said history invoices a packet of invoices exhibiting a same behavior, said packet including at least one invoice from said collection of current invoices; and

generating from a plurality of said packets a first report of invoices having same invoice numbers and vendor numbers, a second report of invoices having similar vendor names and same invoice amounts; a third report of invoices having similar invoice dates and invoice amounts differing only on flagged on flagged conditions; a fourth report of invoices having same invoice amounts and invoice numbers but not same date and vendor name; a fifth report of invoices having same invoice numbers and vendor names but not same vendor number and invoice amount; and a sixth report of invoices having same invoice numbers, vendor name and invoice amounts, irrespective of invoice date.

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8. [Original] The method of claim 7, each invoice comprising a record including vendor identifier indicia, vendor record indicia, date indicia, and amount indicia.

9. [Original] The method of claim 8, each said record including a vendor record indicia field, a data indicia field, and an amount indicia field.

10. [Original] The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

flagging said invoices in said packet against each other with respect to expert criteria;

dropping from said packet unflagged invoices; and

discarding remaining packets having no current invoices.

11. [Original] The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of flagging record pairs having transposed digits in said vendor record indicia fields.

12. [Original] The method of claim 10, further comprising

the step responsive to receiving an invoice with null vendor record indicia field of entering date indicia as date-like indicia to said vendor record indicia field.

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13. [Original] The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of flagging invoice pairs having a same vendor identifier indicia and date-like indicia in said vendor indicia field.

14. [Original] The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of flagging invoice pairs having matching vendor record indicia.

15. [Original] The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of flagging invoice pairs having, for matching vendor identification indicia, matching vendor record indicia except for a prefix or suffix character.

16. [Original] The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of flagging invoice pairs, for matching vendor identification indicia, having vendor record indicia of different lengths.

17. [Original] The method of claim 10, further comprising

the step of flagging invoice pairs matching on said vendor record indicia while ignoring embedded blanks.

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18. [Original] The method of claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

flagging invoice pairs having transposed digits in said vendor record indicia fields;

flagging invoice pairs having a same vendor identifier indicia and date-like indicia in said vendor indicia field;

flagging invoice pairs having matching vendor record indicia;

flagging invoice pairs having, for matching vendor identification indicia, matching vendor record indicia except for a prefix or suffix character;

flagging invoice pairs, for matching vendor identification indicia, having vendor record indicia of different lengths; and

flagging invoice pairs matching on said vendor record indicia while ignoring embedded blanks.

19. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of forcing all said invoices to be current.

20. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of capturing packets having same vendor and invoice numbers.

21. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of capturing packets having similar vendor names and same invoice amount.

22. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of capturing packets having similar invoice dates and amounts, differing only on flagged conditions.

23. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of capturing packets having same invoice amount and numbers but not same date and vendor name.

24. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of capturing packets having same invoice number and

vendor name but not same vendor number and invoice amount.

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25. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of capturing packets having the same vendor number and same invoice number and amount, irrespective of invoice date.

26. [Original] A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a machine to perform method steps for identifying duplicate records among multiple systems, said method steps comprising:

loading first records having an index number into a database during a first predetermined time period;

for each record having said index number, searching said database for another record, loaded during a second earlier time period, having the same index number and replacing said another record, if found, with said first record;

comparing each first record for which no matching index number record was found with all other first records

for which no matching index number invoice was found;

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comparing each of said first invoices for which no matching index number record was found with all the other records including the replaced records in said database;

generating reports of the comparing steps, the reports listing records which compared; and

eliminating from said database said first records deemed to have compared.

27. [Original] A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a machine to perform method steps for providing a report that can be used to evaluate two or more invoiced documents for further investigation of possible duplicate invoicing, said method steps comprising:

maintaining a compact database by removing canceled invoice documents and invoice documents older than a predetermined period;

extracting data from said compact database by matching on suppliers invoice indicia, name, date and amount; and

producing said report from said data.

28. [Original] A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a machine to perform method steps for capturing packets of possible duplicate invoices for duplicate invoice analysis, said method steps comprising:

maintaining a collection of current invoices that have not yet been paid;

maintaining a collection of history invoices that have been paid; and

generating from said current invoices and said history invoices a packet of invoices exhibiting a same behavior, said packet including at least one invoice from said collection of current invoices.

29. [Currently amended] A system for capturing packets of

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possible duplicate invoices for duplicate invoice analysis, comprising:

a current file of invoices that have not yet been paid;

a history file of invoices that have been paid; and

a packet of invoices generated from said current file and said history files for storing invoices exhibiting a same behavior, said packet including at least one invoice from said of current file[[.]] and

a plurality of reports generated from a plurality of said packets including a first report of invoices having same invoice numbers and vendor numbers, a second report of invoices having similar vendor names and same invoice amounts; a third report of invoices having similar invoice dates and invoice amounts differing only on flagged on flagged conditions; a fourth report of invoices having same invoice amounts and invoice numbers but not same date and vendor name; a fifth report of invoices having same invoice numbers and vendor names but not same vendor number and invoice amount; and a sixth report of invoices having same

invoice numbers, vendor name and invoice amounts, irrespective of invoice date.

30. [Original] The system of claim 29, said packet containing invoices having same vendor and invoice numbers.

31. [Original] The system of claim 29, said packet containing invoices having similar vendor names and same invoice amount.

32. [Original] The system of claim 29, said packet containing invoices having similar invoice dates and amounts, differing only on flagged conditions.

33. [Original] The system of claim 29, said packet containing invoices having same invoice amount and numbers but not same date and vendor name.

34. [Original] The system of claim 29, said packet containing invoices having same invoice number and vendor name but not same vendor number and invoice amount.

35. [Original] The system of claim 29, said packet containing invoices having the same vendor number and same

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invoice number and amount, irrespective of invoice date.

36. [Original] A computer program product or computer program element for identifying duplicate records among multiple systems according to method steps comprising:

loading first records having an index number into a database during a first predetermined time period;

for each record having said index number, searching said database for another record, loaded during a second earlier time period, having the same index number and replacing said another record, if found, with said first record;

comparing each first record for which no matching index number record was found with all other first records for which no matching index number invoice was found;

comparing each of said first invoices for which no matching index number record was found with all the other records including the replaced records in said database;

generating reports of the comparing steps, the reports listing records which compared; and

eliminating from said database said first records deemed to have compared.

37. [Original] A computer program product or computer program element for capturing packets of possible duplicate invoices for duplicate invoice analysis according to method steps comprising:

maintaining a collection of current invoices that have not yet been paid;

maintaining a collection of history invoices that have been paid; and

generating from said current invoices and said history invoices a packet of invoices exhibiting a same behavior, said packet including at least one invoice from said collection of current invoices.